



**Guidance for
The New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Program**

Effective January 11, 2021

Purpose and Background:

Limited amounts of COVID-19 vaccine are available for New York’s COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The amount of vaccine the state receives is based upon the allocation made to New York by the federal government. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) then determines state allocations to providers and entities who have enrolled to administer vaccine. The NYSDOH continues to expand on its prioritization and allocation framework based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Providers must prioritize their health care workers, and hospitals must continue to prioritize unvaccinated health care workers from the 1A group, but may vaccinate any eligible person in 1A or 1B. Retail pharmacies or physician network or practice groups, after vaccinating their own patient-facing staff, should only vaccinate persons aged 75 years or older. Local Health Departments must prioritize the essential worker population in 1B.

New York is mandating social equity and fair distribution among the priority groups now eligible to ensure fair treatment and proportionate allocations both by group and by region.

All vaccine providers in New York State, including those located in the City of New York, must follow New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance regarding vaccine prioritization, as well as any other directives. Hospitals and other health care providers must continue to prioritize their high-risk staff and other healthcare workers, as set forth in previous guidance and Appendix A, but cannot limit their vaccination program only to those workers.

Eligible individuals:

Appendix A summarizes populations newly eligible to be vaccinated, including groups prioritized in Weeks 1 through 4 of the NYS COVID-19 Vaccination Program, who continue to be eligible.

Vaccine Provider Responsibilities:

- COVID-19 vaccine must be given according to the prioritization plan established by the NYSDOH. The vaccine cannot be used for any other populations or groups other than those listed as eligible in NYSDOH guidance, pursuant to [Executive Order 202.88](#).
- All facilities, entities, and practices receiving vaccine doses have an obligation to quickly utilize all doses, per New York’s “Use it or Lose it” policy. If any vaccine is not administered within seven days of receipt, remaining doses may be removed, and entities may not be allocated future vaccine doses.